

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SCI-06 COME-00 IO-14 EUR-25 NIC-01

SAM-01 AID-20 CPR-02 DRC-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 /175 W

----- 052822

R 250648Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0650

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3551

FROM PAGANELLI EMBASSY DOHA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, QA, US

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO AMIR OF QATAR

1. SUMMARY: I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO AMIR OF QATAR ON AUG 22. DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, AMIR GAVE ME HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT MID EAST SCENE FROM HIS RECENT TOUR OF AREA, AND ASKED ABOUT ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY

2. ON AUG 22 I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMID AL THANI, AMIR OF QATAR. IN ACCORDANCE WITH QATARI PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS THERE WAS NO (RPT NO) FORMAL EXCHANGE OF REMARKS. I WAS PRE-ADVISED BY DIRECTOR OF AMIR'S OFFICE AND
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CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT SHAYKH KHALIFA DOES NOT (RPT NOT) FAVOR

FORMAL EXCHANGES ON OCCASION OF CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, AND THAT THIS PRACTICE HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED EARLY THIS YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, I CONVEYED TO THE AMIR BEST WISHES OF PRESIDENT FORD AND AMERICAN PEOPLE AND HE ASKED THAT I, IN TURN, CONVEY HIS GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE OF QATAR TO PRESIDENT FORD AND AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HAD A LIVELY INFORMAL SUBSTANTIATIVE CONVERSATION. NOTING MY PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT IN ITALY, THE AMIR ASKED ABOUT POWER OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PCI HAD TAKE-OVER POTENTIAL. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PCI WAS A POTENT FACTOR IN ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM BUT THAT DEMOCRATIC COALITION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN EXCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS FROM AN OPERATIVE ROLE IN GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION I INFORMED AMIR THAT ITALIAN PUBLIC OPINION HAD A DEEP AVERSION TO ANYTHING THAT SMACKED OF TOTALITARIAN RULE AND IN THAT SENSE RETAINED ITS SUSPICION THAT THE PCI WAS THE TOOL OF A FOREIGN TOTALITARIAN POWER, DESPITE PCI EFFORTS TO REPRESENT ITSELF AS A DEMOCRATIC, INDEPENDENT, TRULY ITALIAN PARTY.

4. I TOOK OCCASION TO TELL AMIR THAT ITALY'S CURRENT ACUTE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE LARGELY RESULT OF SKY-ROCKETING OIL PRICES, AND THAT PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS PROVIDED PCI WITH OPPORTUNITY TO HARASS GOI. SHAYKH KHALIFA RESPONDED WITH STANDARD LINE THAT PRESENT OIL PRICES WERE PRODUCING COUNTRIES' REACTION TO YEARS OF EXPLOITATION OF CHEAP ENERGY BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT THE EXPENSE OF PRODUCERS.

5. I THEN ASKED AMIR FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SCENE FROM HIS RECENT TRIPS TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND EGYPT. IN RESPONSE HE DESCRIBED HIS VISIT TO SYRIAN-ISRAELI FRONT, PARTICULARLY QUNAYTRAH. HE DEPLORED ISRAELIS' DESTRUCTION OF CITY BEFORE THEIR WITHDRAWAL, AND ASSERTED THAT ISRAEL'S DECLARED INTENTION TO KEEP ITS SETTLEMENTS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND ITS INTRANSIGENCE ON JERUSALEM BODED ILL FOR A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT ALL PARTIES WERE AGAIN ENGAGING IN WAR TALK.

6. I COMMENTED THAT SABER-RATTLING NOT (RPT NOT) HELPFUL TO
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ATMOSPHERE FOR SETTLEMENT AND WE NOT KIDDING OURSELVES THAT MUCH HARD WORK REMAINED. HOWEVER, U.S. DECLARED INTENTION TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM WAS EVIDENCED BY CURRENT SERIES OF WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WITH ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS.

7. SHAYKH KHALIFA STATED THAT THE ONLY TRUE BASIS FOR A DURABLE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WAS A RECOGNITION BY ALL CONCERNED OF THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR

OWN LAND. IN THIS REGARD, HE CITED ISRAEL'S CONSISTENT FLOUTING OF ALL UN RESOLUTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN RESPONSE TO MY COMMENT THAT THE ARABS THEMSELVES APPEARED NOT AS YET TO HAVE AGREED ON HOW PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WERE TO BE ATTAINED (AS AN EXAMPLE I CITED APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND OTHERS ON THIS SUBJECT), KHALIFA RESPONDED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE ARABS WOULD COME UP WITH A UNITED POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. I REPLIED USG ALSO BELIEVED THERE COULD BE NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE INTEREST OF PALESTINIANS, BUT THIS MUST BE COUPLED WITH REGARD FOR INTERESTS OF OTHER STATES IN AREA FOR PEACEFUL EXISTENCE AND SECURITY. KHALIFA CONCLUDED THIS PORTION OF DISCUSSION SAYING THAT HE WISHED TO GIVE ME HIS VIEWS ON THE MID EAST SITUATION IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. I SAID USG WOULD WELCOME HIS VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS.

8. KHALIFA EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S DECLARATIONS THAT U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY WOULD CONTINUE ON THE SAME TRACK AND PARTICULARLY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD REMAIN IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE HAD FINISHED WITH WATERGATE AFFAIR, AND THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD NOT (RPT NOT) BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER LEGAL HARASSMENT.

9. COMMENT: MEASURING UP TO HIS REPUTATION, KHALIFA GIVES IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION OF QUICK INTELLIGENCE, DYNAMISM AND DECISIVENESS. FROM MY BRIEF EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS AT TOP LEVEL OF GOQ, IT IS VERY CLEAR WHY AND HOW THE AMIR COMPLETELY DOMINATES THIS SMALL COUNTRY.
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